

ABSTRACT

A data communication system has a network and an originating domain or host through which stored or live content can be requested. Access criteria for retrieving the content through a content distribution facility is specified by an originating domain administrator. Authorized users can satisfy the access criteria, and unauthorized users cannot. The originating domain provides the authorized user with a link to requested content in a content distribution facility. Access to the content is controlled by allowing the authorized user to present to the content distribution facility the specified content request and the address of the specified originating domain network location. The authorized user retrieves the content through the content distribution facility only after properly presenting correct access criteria.